GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:156
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
DISPOSAL OF IMMUNIZATION WASTE BY HOSPITALS
Rawale Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that immunization wastes are not properly disposed of and they are reported to be recycled and reused in various hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether burning of immunization wastes results in emission of deadly gases which are harmful to human health and environment;

(d) if so, whether the Government has proposed any new technology for disposing of immunization wastes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; ands

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORSTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a)&(b): There are no reports of improper disposal of immunization wastes brought to the notice of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the Ministry of Environment & Forests. Immunization waste is also Bio-Medical Waste (BMW) which requires proper treatment and disposal as per the provisions of the Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998.

(c) to (f): Burning of syringes generated during immunization is not permitted under the Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998, as it may result in emission of harmful pollutants. The stipulated method of disposal of these wastes is disinfection by chemical treatment/autoclaving/microwaving and mutilation/shredding as per Schedule-I of the BMW Rules. Standards for autoclaving and microwaving are stipulated in the Schedule-V of the BMW Rules.